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MONTHLY BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 36 Berkeley, California, May, 1954 Number 5

## ALBINO ROBIN IN BERKELEY

For the past three weeks or more, there has been an unusual robin in the vicinity of Eunice — Yolo Ave. — Milvia St., Berkeley. From the rear the bird appears wholly white; a front view shows a dull reddish breast, but no other feathers with pigment. Its behavior is normal, whether on the lawn seeking worms, in shrubbery after berries, or on telephone wires flicking its tail and "tuck-tucking".

— Louis A. Elmore, March 13, 1954.

## HUMMINGBIRDS IN GOLDEN GATE PARK

Once again the Allen Hummingbirds are "taking to the hills" in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. At least, they are taking to Strawberry Hill, the island in Stow Lake. This hill, a favorite nesting site of the hummers, seems alive with the little birds from February until about June. The most satisfactory place to watch them is from the bridge near the top of the hill, over the waterfall. When the water is not running, or is running quite slowly, the patient observer will be well rewarded with close-up views of hummers bathing and hovering only a few feet away. I have found that the slighest movement will send the little performers scurrying, but they soon return. Talking does not seem to bother them (if you don't move your mouth too much!). While in the area, one should be on the lookout for Rufous Hummingbrds, as I saw one there last April, and again this March 21.

— Joel T. Hedgpeth.

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome the following: from San Francisco, James J. Bowers, Miss Natalie Mestecein, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Oczkowecz, Miss Matie Read; from Oakland, Mrs. Stanley Davie, Mrs. Estelle Kauffmann, Mrs. Virgil A. Muhler; from Berkeley, Paul Benioff; from Mill Valley, Miss Lelia Crouch, Mr. E. Carol Jackson; from San Rafael, Hugh Paterson; from Belvedere, Mrs. Wm. W. Stout; from Lafayette, Mrs. J. S. Steller; from Glendora, Aleda McCaskill.

## MARCH TRIP TO RODEO LAGOON

Approximately 60 people turned out for the trip to Rodeo Lagoon on Sunday, March 14, a mild, clear day. At the meeting place just north of the Golden Gate Bridge, a pair of red-tailed hawks were seen in courtship flight; one was normal in color while the other was quite melanistic. At the parking area just beyond the tunnel, two early cliff swallows were seen, as well as several singing yellow-throats. Most of the group walked down to the lagoon through the fields north of the creek. Fine views were had of several male Allen Hummingbirds, and an American Bittern was found near the upper pool. The following 65 species were observed.

Arctic Loon, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt Cormorant (?), Great Blue Heron, Am. Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Am. Bittern, Mallard, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup, Am. Golden-eye, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Calif. Quail, Virginia Rail, Coot, Wilson Snipe, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Calif. Gull, Short-billed Gull, Allen Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, Say Phoebe, Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bush-tit, Wren-tit, Bewick Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler, Audubon Warbler, Yellow-throat, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Am. Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow. — A. LAURENCE CURL, *Leader and Historian.*

## MARCH TRIP TO JEWEL LAKE

On Saturday, March 27, about 45 members and guests took advantage of the good weather for the Jewel Lake trip. Birding in this Nature Area in Tilden Park was good. A total of 42 species, as listed, was observed.

Pied-billed Grebe, Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Cooper Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Calif. Quail, Coot, Anna Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Allen Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Steller Jay, Scrub Jay, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tit, Wren-tit, Bewick Wren, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Audubon Warbler, Black-capped (Pileolated) Warbler, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Lesser (Green-backed) Goldfnch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

— CARL L. CARSON, *Leader and Historian.*

## MAY MEETING

The 440th regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held in the Commissioners' Room of the San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, on May 13th, at 7:30 p.m. Following the usual business meeting, Mrs. Lois Chambers Stone will give a talk on "The Bird Paintings of Andrew Jackson Grayson", illustrating it with kodachrome slides.

— Mrs. Budd J. Smith, *Program Chairman.*

The Education Committee of the Society has arranged for a discussion period in the half hour preceding each regular meeting, intended as an aid to beginners and to newcomers to the region. Everyone with problems in identification, methods of study, places to go to find certain birds, etc., is invited to come at 7:00 p.m. and ask questions of the one or more persons with experience in field study of birds in the Bay Area who will be on hand as "experts." Miss Florence Plymell will officiate in this capacity at the May meeting.

— Howard L. Cogswell, *Chairman, Education Committee.*

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

The Board of Directors has had before it proposed agreements (sent to us by the National Audubon Society) between the National Audubon Society, the Golden Gate Audubon Society and the Sequoia Audubon Society, jointly, and the owners of salt-marsh lands in respective locations in the southern portion of San Francisco Bay pertaining to the establishment of sanctuaries, to be operated by the Societies under revocable agreements.

The Board has earnestly considered the proposals, which could involve the Society in legal and other consequences of far-reaching import, and has decided that it is not in the best interests of the Golden Gate Audubon Society to participate in the venture.

— Dorothy Dean Soctt, *President.*

AUDUBON CAMP OF CALIFORNIA. The camp will be held again this year at the Sugar Bowl near Donner Summit under the direction of William N. Goodall, Pacific Coast Representative of the National Audubon Society. The staff members include Miss Dorothy Treat of the National Audubon Society returning this year with her course in Nature Activities; Alexander (Sandy) Sprundt IV (Asst. Pacific Coast Audubon Representative) and Arnold Small (Taft Junior College), Birds; John Harville (San Jose State College) and Dr. James P. Heath (San Jose State College), Inverterbrates; Robert Glaser (Sacramento Junior College), Vertebrates other than Birds; and Peter Snyder (Principal, Oak Park School, San Diego), Plants. There will be 5 sessions of two weeks each: June 27—July 10; July 11—24; July 25—Aug. 7; Aug. 8—21; and Aug. 22—Sept. 4. Registration is open to anyone interested in nature and conservation, if 18 years of age or over. For reservations and information write to the National Audubon Society, 693 Sutter Street—Room 201, San Francisco, California.

## MAY TRIP TO LOS BANOS

On Sunday, May 16, to the State Game Refuge near Los Banos where we hope to see nesting pheasants, water-fowl and song birds. Driving time from the Bay Area is approximately three hours (120 miles). Take U.S. Route 50 to Tracy, then State Route 33, or take U.S. Route 101 from San Jose to Gilroy, then State Route 152. Meet at Tiny's Coffee Shop (or drive-in) at Los Banos at 9:30 a.m. We will proceed by caravan to the Game Refuge. Leader, Carlyle Sather (Walnut 1-4683). The California State Automobile Association lists the Canal Farm Inn and Motel in Los Banos.

## MAY TRIP TO ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

On Saturday, May 22, to St. Mary's College near Moraga. To reach the college turn right at Orinda Four Corners (stop light). Drive to end of this road and then turn left. St. Mary's College is on the right side of this road. Leader, Dr. Arthur S. Campbell, Professor of Biology and Geology at the college, who has kindly consented to guide us. Meet on the campus at 9 a.m. Bring binoculars, telescope if desired, lunch and interested friends.

— FRANK A. SCOTT, *Chairman, Field Trip Committee.*

## FIELD TRIP TRANSPORTATION

It has been observed that many cars on field trips could accomodate more passengers, thus enabling those members without cars to enjoy the outings. If you are willing to give transportation, OR if you need a ride, please call Mrs. George T. Kilham, ORdway 3-4262, in San Francisco, OR Mrs. Edith D. Preston, AShberry 3-4607, in Berkeley, several days before the field trips. They will endeavor to solve our transportation problem with your cooperation in this share-the-ride-plan.

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The Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club will be held at Cape May, New Jersey, from Friday to Monday, June 11 - 14, 1954.

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**Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.**

Estabished January 25, 1917

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|---|---|---|---|
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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m. Joint Membership, Local and National $5.00 per year, includes Audubon Magazine. Local Membership only, $1.50 per year.

Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, California Office — 693 Sutter Street, San Francisco 2 — PR. 5-4042


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